

PATENT
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 -
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - GROUP 1502

The present invention claims priority, under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. Section 119, of Japanese Patent Application No. 119246/1993, filed April 23, 1993. The Assandri reference, which is relied upon by the Patent Examiner in the rejection of all of the claims, was presented at the INWIN '93 Symposium in Geneva, Switzerland, on April 26, 1993. See, cover page of Assandri reference. Accordingly, this reference does not constitute prior art over the above-captioned application, as Applicant is entitled to the earlier priority date of the Japanese patent application.

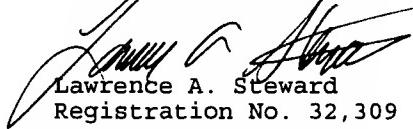
In order to assert its priority claim, Applicant submits herewith a certified English language translation of the Japanese priority document. The actual priority document was previously provided to the Patent and Trademark Office on April 13, 1994, at the time of filing the patent application. As a result, the Assandri reference should now be removed from further consideration as a reference in this case. MPEP 201.15. Since no other reference of record includes the teachings of Assandri cited by the Examiner as pertinent to the claims of the application, the rejections of the claims have now been overcome.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims 5-8 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes that prosecution may be advanced by way of a telephone

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conversation, the Examiner is respectfully invited to
telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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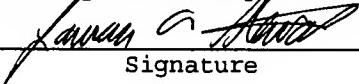
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
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Lawrence A. Steward, Reg. No. 32,309
Name of Registered Representative



Signature

August 15, 1996
Date